

What is claimed is:

1. A portable, fold-over fence panel for delineating athletic fields and controlling crowds, including:

5 a frame having a pair of vertical members and a pair of horizontal members;
a panel of flexible material supported by the frame;

first and second springs removably connected to the vertical members, each of said springs having a mounting spike integrally formed therewith for insertion into a soft, outdoor surface, and said springs allowing the frame to fold over upon impact; and

10 first and second tubular feet interchangeable with said springs and suitable for supporting the frame on a hard surface.

2. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, wherein the vertical and horizontal members are tubular.

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3. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 2, wherein the tubular members are made of a plastic material.

4. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 3, wherein the plastic
20 material is polyvinyl chloride.

5. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 2, wherein the vertical and horizontal members are made of aluminum piping.

25 6. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flexible fencing material is a flat laminar mesh made of high density polyethylene.

7. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flexible fencing material is connected with the frame by hook and loop fastening fabric.

8. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, further including an adapter member connecting the first and second springs with the vertical members.

9. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, further including first and second stability plate associated with the mounting spikes wherein the stability plates are adjacent to the surface and the springs when the mounting spikes are inserted into the surface.

10. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, wherein one of the horizontal members is positioned below the other horizontal member and wherein the lower horizontal member includes at least one step.

11. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1; wherein the vertical and horizontal members are connected by rounded corner brackets.

12. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, wherein the springs are coil springs and are constructed of 3/8" diameter wire.

13. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, further including first and second coil springs associated with the first and second tubular feet, respectively.

14. A portable, fold-over fence panel as set forth in claim 1, further including first and second adapters connecting the first and second springs, respectively, with the vertical members.

5 15. A convertible, portable fencing system for use on both outdoor and indoor surfaces, including:

a plurality of adjacent fence panels arranged in a desired pattern, each fence panel having:

10 a frame having a pair of vertical members and a pair of horizontal members;

a panel of flexible material supported by the frame;

first and second springs removably connected to the vertical members, each of said springs having a mounting spike integrally formed therewith for insertion into a soft, outdoor surface; and

15 first and second tubular feet interchangeable with said springs and suitable for supporting the frame on a hard surface.

16. A convertible, portable fencing system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the adjacent fence panels are interconnected with releasable connection means.

20 17. A convertible, portable fencing system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the releasable connection means is a hook and loop fastening fabric associated with the frames of the adjacent fence panels.

18. A method of delineating a desired athletic field on an outdoor surface, including the steps of:

providing a plurality of frames, each having a pair of vertical members and a pair of horizontal members and supporting a panel of flexible material;

5 installing first and second springs, each having a mounting spike connected thereto, onto the vertical members of each frame;

inserting the mounting spikes associated with one of the frames into the surface; and

10 inserting the mounting spikes associated with the remaining frames into the surface in a pattern matching the desired athletic field.

19. A method of converting a fence panel from outdoor to indoor use, including the steps of:

15 providing a fence panel having a frame with a pair of vertical members and a pair of horizontal members, a panel of flexible material supported by the frame, and first and second springs removably connected to the vertical members, each of said springs having a mounting spike integrally formed therewith for insertion into a soft, outdoor surface;

providing first and second tubular feet interchangeable with said springs and suitable for supporting the frame on a hard surface;

20 removing the springs from the vertical members; and connecting the tubular feet with the vertical members.